10. Difficulties of the people consequent on the current resurvey of porambokes.

Mr. K. G. Thomas (Member, Nominated) also represented the difficulties of the people consequent on the current resurvey of *porambokes*. Before commencing his subject, the Member wished to convey the congratulations of the Assembly on the conferment, by His Majesty the King Emperor, on His Highness the Maha Raja, of the title of an Honorary Colonelcy in the Indian Army, on the birth of a Princess to Her Highness the Senior Ranee, and on the conferment of the title of C. S. I. on the Dewan.

Passing on to the subject, he said that the difficulties which the people were encountering in connection with the treatment of *porambokes* were manifold. The fact that several Members had come forward to speak on that subject alone was itself a sufficient testimony to the untold grievances the people were being subjected to on that account. The redress sought for from the appellate or revisional authorities would not allay their grievances. He referred first to the large number of theodolite stones, about 18,000, newly planted during 1098 at the cost of land owners on the boundaries of *porambokes*. These stones were, during the last survey, planted by the Government, but now the people were asked to bear the cost of the stones at the rate of Rs. 1¼ each as well as the cost of planting them at Rs. 1½ each. The Member said that he failed to see why the people were put to such large expenditure on the above account.

Another point was the large number of *poramboke* cases, 32,800 in number, started by the Land Records Department. Over Rs. 40,000 had been levied as fine and *tharavila* from the parties concerned, and what was worse, the people had paid at least twice as much to the officers conducting the enquiries in those cases. As to the enquiry why such complaints were not brought to the notice of the Government, he referred to the several complaints preferred both verbally and through petitions to the authorities concerned.

The next reference made by the Member was to the mistakes committed in survey. The Member quoted a specific instance where a certain land owner lost 40 links of land due to the incorrect planting of stones and the adjoining land owner was found to have been in possession of these 40 links of land on which cocoanut trees 60 to 70 years old were standing. When the matter was taken to the L. R. M. Superintendent, he said that redress should be sought only through civil courts. That would be adding insult to injury. Not only had the party concerned lost trees of 60 or 70 years' growth, but he was put to the additional expenditure of launching a civil suit.

A fourth complaint was about the planting of demarcation stones without the knowledge of the parties concerned. They came to know of the charge of encroachment upon *poramboke* lands only when notices to that effect were served on them.

The Member's next complaint was about the planting of boundary stones on the sides of river and canal *porambokes*. These stones had been planted during the original survey a little to the interior of the adjoining registered holdings with a view to prevent submersion. Though the owners then protested against this procedure, it was promised that no harm would ensue. The portions of these holdings lying outside the limits of the stones were now being treated as *porambokes*. The Member said that that was really hard.

Incidentally the Member spoke about the condition of the theodolite instruments themselves. They were old and were wanting in some of the essential parts and consequently the measurements of angles taken with them were bound to be inaccurate. As a result the people had to suffer. He therefore suggested that new instruments might be provided.

In conclusion, the Member referred to the irregularities and dishonesty of the subordinate officers conducting land records maintenance work. He said that, instead of submitting petitions against them and preferring appeals in the matter of land complaints, it would be better if the officers themselves were changed.

President's reply.—I shall convey the felicitations of the Assembly to His Highness the Maha Raja on the conferment by His Majesty the King Emperor of an

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Honorary Colonelcy of the Indian Army on His Highness, and on the birth of a Princess to Her Highness the Senior Ranee. I shall also convey your congratulations to the Dewan on the conferment of the title of C. S. I. on him.

In regard to the excess cost recovered from the parties on account of theodolite stones as also the cost of their transmission and planting, the Land Revenue Commissioner will be asked to look into the matter. As regards the planting of theodolite stones, I may say that, under Rule 4 of the L. R. M. Rules, the owners of the adjoining lands have to take care of them and plant them.

Member.—How can we take care of them ? It is rather hard to lay the duty upon the owners of adjoining lands. Even the Treasury which is strongly protected by iron bars is sometimes not free from thefts.

President.—The rule is to that effect.

Member.—What I say is that such a rule should be cancelled.

President.—The matter will be looked into.

The Land Records Superintendent says that all the theodolite instruments issued to his staff are in sound condition.

Then you refer to the irregularities of the subordinate officers of the Land Records Department. I may tell you for your information that about 40 accountants have been dismissed and some of the Assistant Tahsildars have been reverted for bad work and inefficiency. Stringent instructions will again be issued to the officers concerned for working the rules properly.

11. Registry of puduval lands in favour of the Hindu depressed classes.

Mr. Kurumpan Daivattan (Member, Nominated) spoke about the difficulties experienced by members of the Hindu depressed classes in getting lands registered in their names. The Government with the best of intentions had ordered the registry of lands to the members of the depressed classes on concessional terms. But there were several impediments to their enjoying the benefits intended by the Government. In his opening Address, the Dewan had himself stated that, out of an extent of 18,986 acres of land ear-marked for registry in favour of the depressed classes, only 1,028 acres had been registered. Lists of lands ear-marked for the purpose were being published only in some of the *pakuthi* and taluk cutcherries. Many of the lands ear-marked were unprofitable lands which would not be bid for, if sold in auction. The members of the depressed classes could not compete with others in securing profitable lands because of their poverty and consequently they had to be satisfied with the lands ear-marked for them. These people, he said, were essentially a labouring class sunk in poverty who could not even lead a hand-to-mouth existence with the earnings of their labour. From such a deplorable condition, the Government alone could uplift them. He therefore prayed that the following lands might be registered in the names of the members of the Pulaya and other depressed classes at an early date with a view to ameliorate their condition.

(1) An extent of about 309 acres of land in the Nedumpanakkal *pakuthi*, Quilon taluk. The Member said that the taluk authorities having notified these lands for registry, applications were made to them; but he understood that steps were in progress for the registry of only 17 acres.

(2) An extent of 100 acres of land comprised in survey No. 295/1 of the Kottarakara *pakuthi*, Kottarakara taluk. The land was surveyed, but no proceedings for assignment were started. The Member said that he understood from the Revenue officers that such proceedings could be started only after a subdivision survey of the big blocks in which the lands in question were comprised.

(3) The *kavus* belonging to Pulayas in the Pattanapuram taluk should be transferred from *poramboke* and registered in the names of the respective worshippers.

(4) An extent of 25 acres of land comprised in survey No. 777/1 of the Kanni *pakuthi*, Pattanamtitta taluk, and 3,300 acres of swampy land in the above *pakuthi* constituting the Arikkakkavu and Kattachiraman swamps.

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